

ARCHIVES/COLLECTION MAN1-1-2008
624 WASHINGTON AVE
MONTGOMERY AL 36130-0100

wedding

INSIDE

UDC honors
outstanding
history students

INSIDE

Annual Brunson
family reunion
held in April

The Elba Clipper

Volume 109, Number 51

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, June 11, 2008

1 Section, 16 Pages

Dedication ceremony held for new J.B. Taylor State Diagnostic Laboratory

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The long awaited dedication of the \$2.5 million dollar new building for the J.B. Taylor State Diagnostic Lab was held last Friday morning with a host of local and state dignitaries plus other interested citizens present.

The building was constructed by R & S Construction. It is located directly behind the site of the original diagnostic lab, a block building built in the '60s at a cost of \$23,000.

State Veterinarian Tony Frazier emceed the ceremonies with Agriculture Commissioner Ron Sparks delivering the keynote speech.

Others addressing the assembled group included Dr. John Gamble, of the state agriculture department, Dr. Billy Powell, Senator Jimmy Holley and Representative Terry Spicer and Elba Mayor James Grimes.

Lab director Joel Cline took a back seat to the festivities but was flashing a broad grin throughout the morning.

Powell related to the attendees the determined fight of Senator Jimmy Holley to get the Elba lab building included in the bond issue funding of several state projects.

This state-of-the-art facility also has a distance learning center to facilitate communication with other labs, the state office and facilities worldwide with these video conferencing capabilities. The learning center is named in honor of former agriculture commissioner Charles Bishop, who initiated the idea of building a new facility for the diagnostic lab.

Sparks envisions the ability to use video conferencing to train inspectors in this lab without them having to travel to Montgomery or another distant training site. "It will save time and money," said Sparks.

The commissioner also described the new lab and

See Lab
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RIBBON CUTTING. A host of dignitaries and beauty queens were on hand for the official ribbon cutting of new building for the J.B. Taylor diagnostic lab and Bishop Learning Center in Elba last Friday morning, May 26. Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries Commissioner Ron Sparks and Elba Mayor James Grimes joined in the honor of formally cutting the ribbons.

County BOE members approve long list of personnel recommendations

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Coffee County Board of Education members met Friday, May 26, for a special meeting, and a long list of personnel matters were recommended and approved.

Superintendent Dr. Linda Ingram presented board members with recommendations regarding personnel, and board members approved those recommendations with no opposition. Personnel matters approved by the board included:

Qualified Personnel
The following teachers were approved for continued service status:

- Heather Templin - special education teacher at New Brockton Elementary School;

- Shelia Johnson - third grade teacher at New Brockton Elementary School;

- Patricia Campbell - business education teacher at New Brockton High School;

- Bob Hartwell - assistant principal at Zion Chapel School;

- Amanda Corbett - band director at Zion Chapel School;

- Rhonda Flowers - special guidance counselor at Zion Chapel School;

- Amber Canley - special education teacher at Zion Chapel School;

- Dawn Smith - special education teacher at Zion Chapel School;

- Ginger Vinson - fifth/middle school social studies teacher at Zion Chapel School;

- Harry Lees - social studies/head football coach at Zion Chapel School.

The following employee's resignation was accepted:

- Tami Crosby - science teacher at New Brockton High School.

The following employees were approved for voluntary transfer:

- Sandy Reeves from her position as a kindergarten teacher at Kinston School to that of a first grade teacher at Kinston School;

- Patti Spann from her position as a first grade self-contained teacher at Kinston School to that of a third grade self-contained teacher at Kinston School;

- Carol Young from her position as a third grade teacher at Kinston School to that of a fifth

grade teacher at Kinston School;

- Tim Archie from his position as a fifth grade self-contained teacher at Kinston School to that of a seventh and eighth grade departmentalized teacher at Kinston School for the 2006-07 school year;

- Barbara Cole from her position as a seventh and eighth grade English teacher at New Brockton High School to that of a seventh through twelfth grade English teacher at New Brockton High School;

- Debbie Wilkins from her position as a tenth and twelfth grade English teacher at New Brockton High School to that of a seventh through twelfth grade English teacher at New Brockton High School;

- Brooke Cavanaugh from her position as a ninth and eleventh grade English teacher to that of a seventh through twelfth grade English teacher at New Brockton High School;

- Brad Smith from his position as a ninth, eleventh and twelfth grade social science teacher at New Brockton High School to that of a seventh through twelfth grade social science teacher at New Brockton High School;

- Shannon Clark from his position as an eleventh and twelfth grade social science teacher at New Brockton High School to that of a seventh through twelfth grade social science teacher at New Brockton High School.

- Dana Barnhill from her position as a seventh and eighth grade science teacher at New Brockton High School to that of a seventh through twelfth grade science teacher at New Brockton High School;

tion as a seventh and eighth grade science teacher at New Brockton High School to that of a seventh through twelfth grade science teacher at New Brockton High School;

- Terry Patman from his position as a eighth and ninth grade math teacher at New Brockton High School to that of a seventh through twelfth grade math teacher at New Brockton High School;

- Daniel Lamb from his position as a tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade math teacher at New Brockton High School to that of a seventh through twelfth grade math teacher at New Brockton High School;

- Lougener Wyrosdick from her position as a ninth and tenth grade social science teacher at New Brockton High School to that of a seventh through twelfth grade social science teacher at New Brockton High School;

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JUNE



Commissioner Ron Sparks

Northbound journey brings cyclers through Elba

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Two northbound travelers stopped last Thursday, May 22, in Elba for a quick rest before peddling on in their journey filled with organic lessons.

Mike Jones, of Savannah, Ga., and Chandel McAuley, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, stopped at the Elba Post Office last Thursday morning for a break from their bicycle journey. The two had left Milton, Fla., a few days prior on the northern track that led them to Elba.

Jones said they are traveling by bicycle and camping along the way. He said they try to ride 30-40 miles per day, and they

actually do not have a final destination in mind.

Instead, Jones said they have a purpose. The two travel partners are visiting as many organic farms as they can locate and volunteering their time on those farms.

"I've done a few trips before," Jones said. "It's just a nice way to travel."

McAuley, the least experienced of the two travelers, is experiencing her first big bike trip.

"I was looking to get away from the big city," she said. "I wanted to do something more meaningful."

Jones actually began the journey alone in January when

he departed from Savannah. He said he had worked a few farms before deciding it would be nice to have a travel partner.

So, he posted a notice on a website for organic volunteers indicating he was looking for a travel partner.

McAuley answered his posting, and she flew down from Canada early last week to meet Jones in Milton. Jones was quick, however, to note that a nice coincidence eased any apprehension his new partner may have had in regards to joining him on the trip.

"One of the farms I was staying at in Georgia, I was living with a girl that knew Chandel," he said. "We had a mutual friend, and that made it easier for her to come join me."

Four days into her first big bike journey, McAuley said it is hard, but she really likes it.

"There are a lot of hills in Alabama," she said. "I'm use to the flat prairies back home."

Put aside those never ending hills, though, and McAuley said it is nice to see an alternative way of living through this journey. She said it delivers a

sense of community. However, there are some parts she enjoys more than others.

Camping is not her favorite part, especially dealing with the bugs, but she said it is always interesting. Last Wednesday night, the two found themselves camping at the Frank Jackson State Park in Opp, Ala.

After Thursday morning's break, the two planned to head north again. Jones said they would head to Trist from Elba and would most likely get a hotel room that night before moving on the next day.

He said they are going to head north through Alabama. There are about six organic farms they are hoping to visit in Alabama above Auburn. Jones said they will probably stay there a while volunteering on those farms before heading north again to wherever the roads lead them.

"Everybody we've met in Alabama has been awesome," he said. "The people have been helpful, kind and just really nice. Alabama gets a bad rap sometimes, but everyone's been great to us."



Cycling partners Chandel McAuley (left) and Mike Jones (right) traveled through Elba last Thursday morning, May 25, on a trip that is taking them north in search of organic farms. The two stopped at the Elba Post Office for a quick break and check of the road map.

Area Happenings

THE NEW BROCKTON TOWN COUNCIL will meet Monday, June 5, at 7 p.m. for the regular monthly meeting at the New Brockton Town Hall.

THE DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PRIMARY ELECTIONS will be held Tuesday, June 6. The polls in Coffee County will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. After the polls close, results will be taken at the Civic Center in New Brockton.

THE COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION will meet Monday, June 12, at 9 a.m. for the regular bi-monthly meeting at the county complex in New Brockton.

To benefit Elba Community Playground project "Picnic for the Park" set for June 29th

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The countdown to build week continues for the Elba Community Playground with it now only about 16 weeks away, and playground committee members hope an upcoming event will create even more excitement for the project.

"Picnic for the Park" will be held Thursday, June 29, at the Elba High School cafeteria beginning at 6:30 p.m. The event will offer interested citizens of all ages an opportunity to learn specific details regarding the project while also helping to raise additional needed funds for the playground and build enthusiasm about the upcoming build week where many volunteers from the community will be needed to build the playground.

"Picnic" tables will be arranged within the high school's cafeteria, and a meal of grilled hamburgers with delicious sides will be served. Individual tickets are available for purchase at \$20 per plate. Also, a special section will be reserved for children (age 12 and below) for a lesser amount

at \$10 per child featuring grilled hot dogs.

Playground committee members feel "Picnic for the Park" will be an ideal time for churches, organizations, co-workers, families, etc. to come together for a fun, relaxing event that will aid the community in achieving the goal of developing a state-of-the-art playground for area children.

"Picnic for the Park" will be a casual event with the dress code following that of traditional picnics.

For more information regarding "Picnic for the Park" or to sponsor a table, contact Laurie Chapman at (334) 897-1152 or email: lauriechapman@char.iz.net.

Even if you are unable to attend, the playground committee encourages you to consider making a contribution to this worthwhile cause.

Additional information regarding the Elba Community Playground project can be found by visiting the website at www.elbaalabama.net/playground. The build week is set for the week of Sept. 19-23.



EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
with Ferrin Cox

It is amazing the number of real important "things" people don't know! Some fresh and vital life altering information concerning that popular beverage brewed from the coffee beans came across the computer screen a couple of weeks ago. . . . "coffee was introduced to Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks. The world's first coffee shop, Kiv Han, opened there in 1475. Turkish law made it legal for a woman to divorce her husband if he failed to provide her with her daily quota of coffee." This before we start being critical of today's laws and/or customs surrounding marriage and divorce, popping off to and about our wives, etc., men should be sure there is plenty of coffee in the cabinet.

The U. S. government is redesigning all the paper money, for the purpose of making it harder for fake money to get into the system. Personally we are having trouble with the new \$10. It is almost to the point of asking for two \$5 rather than the new ten spot. Elba has been hit by two recent floods and on the surface we present a pretty calm "I am in control" reaction to both these disasters, just like other local flood survivors. However those \$10 have a tan tint and remind us of the crumpled and stained bills that came through the office cash register for several months after being salvaged from someone's flood ravaged home, car or buried styro can in 1990 or 1998. However, don't fear just yet as our panic threshold has not been reached.

Scam artists continue to prey on the unsuspecting. It seems their success is greater when there is some type new plan or widely known confusion in a government program. Last week there were reports of phone calls to a local senior citizen offering to help with drug bills, etc. before the realized what was happening. In this case she did the right thing and with the help of family members got bank account numbers, etc. changed immediately. Family members trying to check on the matter, and the company, found the two phone numbers given were bogus and this scam had been worked extensively, and successfully, in the Opelika area. The bottom line . . . don't give any caller your social security number, bank account number, not even your birth date. If your bank needs this information, they already have it and/or you need to do your own calling - and not to the number the caller gives you but the one on your bank statements. The same holds true for these scam e-mails computer users get every week asking them to confirm this very personal financial data. Just don't do it!!

The local Hardee's closed recently with no prior announcement. We have not talked to anyone from the corporate office, but others have indicated there are no plans to reopen and just sell the real estate. This would be a great opportunity for someone interested in that type business. Buy (or lease) the property, renovate and clean it up, hire top notch help and in our opinion the biscuit eaters would come back in droves.

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, May 22, 2006, investigated the following incidents: one lost cell phone, one damage to property, one breaking and entering a motor vehicle, three for theft of property, one fugitive from justice, one robbery, one harassing communications, one tree incident, one domestic violence, one unattended death and one driving under the influence.

The following arrests were made: two for failure to appear, two arrests on warrants, one for domestic violence and one for driving under the influence.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: two for a revoked driver's license, three

BULLETIN BOARD

• ABUSING CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES THROUGH CHRIST A.R.M.S. addiction recovery ministry services - Thurs. 7 p.m. - 1st Baptist Church, Call 565-9770 or visit the website: www.inhabits.com.
• ALCOHOL & DRUG RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP - every Tuesday at 6 p.m. - Shiloh Baptist Church of Elba - Call 897-507 for more information.
• SOCIAL SECURITY REP. - Thursdays: 4th Tues. 12:30-1:30. Call FREE 1-800-772-1213.
• ROTARY CLUB - Tuesday @ Noon-First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.
• ELBA CITY COUNCIL - 2nd & 4th Monday - 6 p.m.-City Hall.
• WATER & ELECTRIC - Wednesday following 2nd Monday-6 p.m. - City Hall.
• ELBA MINISTERIAL ASSN. - Tues. - 8 a.m. Elba United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.
• GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - every Monday 6:30 p.m.-Elba United Methodist Church-enter on side W. Davis St.-Maggie Garrett Classroom.
• COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION - 2nd & 4th Monday - Community Room in Farm Center Complex @ New Brockton.
• LEONS CLUB - 2nd & 4th Tues. - 6:30 p.m. Senior Citizen Center.
• ELBA CITY SCHOOL BOARD - 2nd Tues. - 5:30 p.m. - Supr. Office.
• AMERICAN LEGION - 1st Tuesday of every month-7:00 p.m. Legion Hall, Troy Hwy.
• MASONIC LODGE 170 - 1st & 3rd Monday of each month-7 p.m.
• BAND BOOSTERS - 1st Mon. - 7 p.m. Band Room @ Elba High School.
• VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER - Mon-Fri 8-12 noon & 12:30 - 4:30 New Brockton @ Farm Center Complex 894-5858.
• COFFEE COUNTY COON HUNTERS ASSN. - 3rd Sat. - 3 p.m. Club House.
• COFFEE COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN - 3rd Wed. Noon - Po Folks, Enterprise.
• ELBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY - 1st Thursday at 5 P.M., the FBO office at the Airport.
• AARP meets every 3rd Tuesday night of the month.
• ELBA ATHLETIC CLUB - 2nd & 4th Monday - 7 p.m. - Elba High boys locker room.
• NEW SEASONS STUDY CLUB - Every 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m.
• ELBA KIWANIS CLUB - 1st & 3rd Thursday - 7 a.m. - Ranch House.

Baring of a soul with election day opinions

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

Next Tuesday, June 6th, Alabama voters will trek to the polls for the first primary voting. Both Democrats and Republicans will be selecting party candidates for the November General Election.

Below are some opinions and efforts to justify the conclusions reached.

Please read, either for fun or information, but hopefully leave with a better idea of reasons to vote for or against a person or issue.

AMENDMENT: There is only one amendment on the ballot this time. It deals with marriage and is a very emotional issue. There have been more questions (and confusion) on this than on any of the candidates. All voters get to vote on this issue.

A YES vote is to support traditional marriages as between a man and a woman. It also outlaws recognizing a gay marriage from any other state or nation.

Frankly that is what we thought was Alabama law already. This constitutional amendment will probably be stuck down if it passes the voters, just as a similar one was recently axed in Georgia.

It was to be expected, but this week opponents are trying to confuse the issue by hinting it will jeopardize the existing common law marriages in Alabama. We don't see the connection, just more confusion.

DEMOCRATS: GOVERNOR: "We Love Lucy" but will stay with former governor Don Siegelman. This man has been a close friend for years and always ready to help Coffee County. We know nothing personally about the ongoing federal court case but find it hard to believe 'cause our friends are honest. We have never been hit up with demands for bribe money, etc. If re-elected it is obvious he needs to

watch the store a lot closer, or maybe assign someone the sole job of making sure all staffers are true to the voters and don't do anything which would not stand the light of day. A big part of the problem may have been the youthfulness of his staff - all still trying to make a name for themselves. But at the pace he moves, beginning before daylight every day, it takes a younger person to keep up.

U S REPRESENTATIVE: Both Democratic candidates are retired military and that is about their only qualification. Take your pick, but vote Republican in November.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: John Tyson Jr. is the only choice here. Even the Democratic party is disavowing that Larry Darby, his opinions and antics. Darby is the guy who still doesn't believe Hitler and his thugs killed all those folks in the concentration camps during WWII. It is obvious he has never walked through one of the camps, looked into the ovens, etc. You can't experience that eerie feeling (and even if imagined) smell of death that lingers and still say it didn't happen.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS JUDGE PLACE #2: Take your pick here. We don't think either of the two can hold a candle with Judge Keli Wise.

SECRETARY OF STATE: We have fussed with Nancy Worley on more than one occasion, but pick her over her lone opponent.

STATE TREASURER: It is impossible to look at the two candidates here and pick a favorite, who will be opposing a great Republican incumbent in November. Anyway we lean to Steve Segrest.

STATE AUDITOR: There will be a new face here, regardless, as all candidates in both parties are new. We select Charlie Baker.

COMMISSION: This seat will also see a new face with the incumbent running for something else.

Our vote would go to Susan Parker, hands down. All other statewide Democratic candidates are unopposed and not on the ballot until November.

REPUBLICANS: GOVERNOR: BOB RILEY here. He hasn't really been a shining light with new ideas, programs, etc., for the past four years but has been a good image man for Alabama. His opponent, Judge Roy Moore is beginning to talk more like a candidate with a plan, but we are afraid he would soon be defying the courts again, much to the embarrassment of many, many Alabama citizens.

LT GOVERNOR: There are four candidates here. We lean to the big guy, Luther Strange. Very close behind is George Wallace Jr.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: We are loyal to the home folks here and without apology, Troy King has shown the ability to do this job and deserves our support. He gets it with a smile.

CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT: Drayton Nabers was appointed without any judging experience but gets our support over his lone Republican opposition. Tom Parker hasn't done much opinion writing on the bench. "too busy getting organized".

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PLACE #2: Our vote is for Betty Peters.

There are a number of races not mentioned in one or the other of the party lists. Again, this is because there is no party opposition. All nominees will appear on the November ballot.

Voters are on their own for State Senator and Sheriff. Not being a party loyalist of any nature, it would be unfair to mix in on selecting committee members of the respective parties. The truth of the matter is "we just don't care who gets the thrill of filling those seats".

Do vote, but vote an informed vote. If, as we did above, you know nothing about the candidates, just face up to it and skip to the next race. An uninformed vote can be worse than not voting at all.

SUPREME COURT PLACE #3: Gosh, Lyn Stuart is the winner here. She is "our kind of folks".

SUPREME COURT PLACE #4: This is a hard call. Both

Glen Murdock and Jean Brown are qualified and experienced candidates. This race will still be hard in November. Murdock and his Coffee County ties give him the edge with us in this race.

COURT OF CIVIL RACES: We can find out very little about the candidates in these three races. Bill Shashy, Place #3 on the Civil Appeals Court got a strong recommendation from someone we respect and for that reason alone would get our vote.

STATE AUDITOR: Gosh, again we throw up our hands! Wes Allen is in athletics at Troy University, but that is hardly a recommendation for this job. The others we know even less about. We leave the table to answer the phone on this one.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION PLACE #2: This seat is open with George Wallace Jr. running for Lt. Governor. Our vote would go to Perry O Hooper Jr. He may be a bit too conservative for some folks, but Alabama needs someone very conservative on this commission.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PLACE #2: Our vote is for Betty Peters.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Usually in an election I have already made my mind up 100%. The only race I am having some undecisiveness is for State Senator.

Knowing both men, it is a very hard decision. Both have given back to Coffee County. I am proud to live in a country where we do have the right to vote.

Either candidate that wins will be my State Senator. The truth is, I probably won't make my mind up until I am in the booth ready to pull the lever.

I have tried to weigh the pros & cons of each person. One thing is clear, the battle line is clearly drawn.

The one thing that tips the scale of balance "today" is remembering that Jimmy Holley knocked on my parents home to warn them of the reality of Elba flooding. They were able to get out in time. They lost everything except a few odds and ends - however, they are alive.

My cousin mentioned today the seniority card also.

If you've ever lived in Elba through the floods, you know how much it means to have someone that knows the system and goes the extra mile to help.

CARD OF THANKS

PRICE FAMILY

The family of Dallas Ray Price would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone for their acts of kindness. Thanks for all the prayers, food and flowers.

May God bless each and every one of you.

Marilyn Byrd, Melissa Hughes, Ronnie Price, Travis Price, Melinda Rogers, Vivian Kemp and Eleanor Price
6/1pd.

NOW SERVING
BREAKFAST

Get breakfast and lunch to go.



Open at 6:00 A.M.

SUBWAY
1698 Hickman Ave. Elba
897-8462

Obituaries

JOHN BIBB FARRIS

Mr. John Bibb Farris, age 71, of New Brockton, Ala., died Friday, May 26, 2006 at Prattville Baptist Hospital in Prattville, Ala.

Graveside services and burial were held May 27, 2006 in the New Haven Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Mike Medley and Rev. Mike Taylor officiating and Hayes Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Survivors include his wife: Grace Farris, Ozark, Ala.; one son: Eddie (wife Lynn) Farris, Ozark; three daughters: Debbie (husband Keith) Roberts, New Brockton, Teresa (husband Sam) Carr, Ozark, Amy (husband Matthew) Odum, Edmond, Okla.; one sister: Marie McCurley, Sansala, Fla.; three brothers: Connie Farris, Dal Farris and Wayne Farris, Elba; eight grandchildren: Jeri Lynn Farris, Amanda Freeman, Daniel Freeman, Zachary Roberts, Katy Grace Roberts, Kaylin Ray Roberts, Jackson Odum and Abigail Odum.

ED WARE
Mr. Ed Ware, of Opp, Ala., formerly of Elba, Ala., died Saturday, May 13, 2006, at the Mizell Memorial Hospital in Opp.

Graveside services were held May 19, 2006 from the Harden Street Cemetery of Opp with Rev. Teddy Hill officiating and Hammond Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include his wife: Mrs. Janie Brown, age 77, of Troy, Ala., died Thursday, May 18, 2006, at her residence in Troy.

Funeral services were held May 26, 2006 at Springfield Missionary Baptist Church in Samson, Ala., with Rev. Wilson Yelverton officiating. Burial followed in the Samson City Cemetery with Coleman Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include her husband: Frank Brown Sr., Miami, and four children: Lillian (Velaria) Brown, Marianna, Fla., Vicki (Robert) Lee, Henningway, S.C., Katrina (Steve) Brown, Enterprise, Ala.; one daughter: Cledis Brown, Marianna; two grandchildren: Samara Allen and Dominique (Niesha) Brown.

LINDA GAYLE DEVAUGHAN
Mrs. Linda Gayle DeVaughan, age 55, of New Brockton, Ala., died Tuesday, May 23, 2006 at her family's residence. Memorial services were held at a later date.

Mrs. DeVaughan was preceded in death by her father, Cecil Wade Phelps.

Survivors include her husband: Ronald "Dumpy" DeVaughan, New Brockton; two daughters: Shannon (husband Kenneth) Insley, Enterprise, Amy (husband Matthew) Boyd, Bellevue, Neb.; her grandchildren: Ella Mildred Phelps, New Brockton, one sister: Sue (husband Carey) Walls, New Brockton; two brothers: Larry Phelps, Perry (wife Ann) Phelps, both of New Brockton; and six grandchildren: Matthew McEwan, Jillian and Ryan Insley, Sidney, Rhonda and Melanie Boyd.

RICHARD LANFORD BUNDY
Mr. Richard Lanford Bundy, age 73, of Jack, Ala., died Sunday, May 28, 2006, at his home.

Funeral services were held May 30, 2006 from the Chapel of Dillard Funeral Home in Brundidge, Ala. with Rev. Donnie Earles and Rev. Andy Marler officiating. Burial followed at Center Ridge United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Mr. Bundy was preceded in death by his wife, Estell Bundy; and a son, James Bundy. Survivors include his five children and their spouses: Bessie and Jerry Wilkerson, Springhill, Ala., Linda Catenhead, Samson, Ala., and three grandchildren: Sherri Deupree (husband Ricky) Peak, Dothan, Angie (husband Dr. George Reynolds), Jackson, Miss.; two sons: Chris (wife Gina) Deupree.

WILLIAM THOMAS DEUPREE
Mr. William Thomas Deupree, age 74, of Elba, Ala., died Monday, May 29, 2006 at Extendicare Hospice Facility in Dothan, Ala.

Private graveside services will be held at Danleys Crossroads Cemetery on Thursday, June 1, 2006 with Rev. Kyle Gatlin officiating. Burial will immediately follow the graveside service. Visitation will be held at Hayes Funeral Home on Wednesday, May 31, from 1-1:45 p.m.

Mr. Deupree was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ray Deupree.

Survivors include two daughters: Sherri Deupree (husband Ricky) Peak, Dothan, Angie (husband Dr. George Reynolds), Jackson, Miss.; two sons: Chris (wife Gina) Deupree.

ROY J. GREEN
Mr. Roy J. Green, age 63, of Elba, Ala., died Sunday, May 28, 2006 at his home in Elba.

Graveside services will be held at Rocky Head Baptist Church Cemetery on Wednesday, May 31, 2006 at 2 p.m. with Rev. Ray Stinson officiating. Burial will follow in the Rocky Head Baptist Church Cemetery, Elba, with Hayes Funeral Home directing. Visitation will be at Hayes Funeral Home on Wednesday, May 31, from 1-1:45 p.m.

Mr. Green was preceded in death by his wife, Tiny Green.

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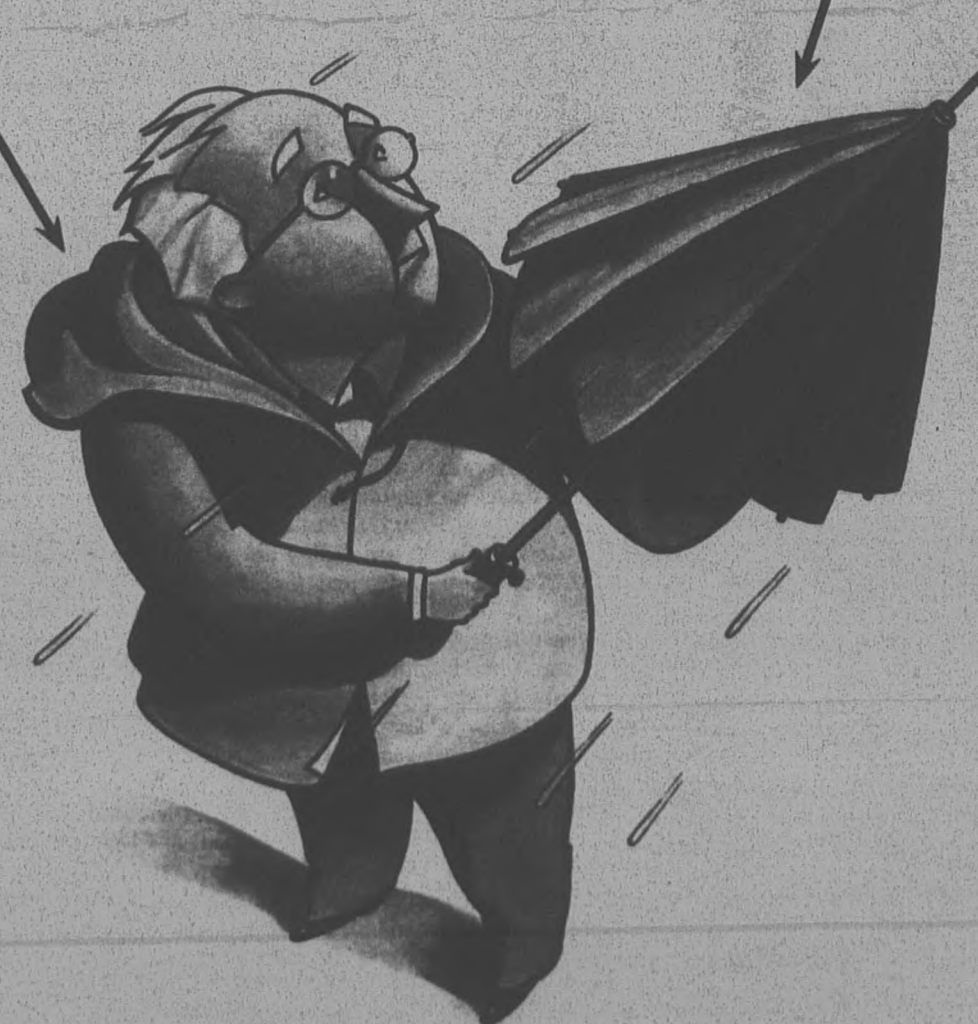
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Views from...

The Pressbox

By Ricky Mulers, Sports Editor

Since I have one daughter that is a senior in college and another that is a senior in high school does that make me a senior citizen? Oh well, it was just a thought that crossed my mind one day last week.

FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH...

*** I talked with Elba Tiger head football coach Scott Rials one day last week and while he admitted next year's team would be young and very inexperienced in a couple of places, it was easy to tell he was excited about the upcoming season and the challenge that is ahead of him and his staff. The Tigers will return only a handful of seniors to provide the leadership role for the youngsters, but that group is a blue collar bunch of seniors that have played for years and play for the love of the sport, and not the glory and headlines. Elba will move back up to 3A next season and will face a schedule that will include no easy opponents. The Tigers' non-region opponents include 1A power Brantley, 4A rival Opp and cross-county rival New Brockton, while in one three-game stretch they will line up in consecutive weeks against defending state champ Pike County, former 4A power Geneva and longtime 3A contender Straight. Elba will face one of its toughest schedules ever, and will do so with a team looking for some respect. My guess is they will get that respect and win over many more fans as the season goes along.

*** The youth softball and baseball seasons end this week, which means it must be time for the all-stars to get to work in preparation for upcoming tournaments. This summer Elba will host sub-district tournaments in Dixie Boys Baseball 14-year-olds, Dixie Boys Baseball 13-year-olds and Dixie Belles Softball (ages 13-15), as well as the District Tournament for Dixie Youth Baseball (ages 11-12). The tournaments will begin in mid-June and last until late-July. So, it looks like a busy end to the season for many of the baseball fans and families here in Elba.

*** Last summer the term "West Coffee" became almost a household word for many area baseball fans, and the team has come back together for another busy summer of baseball. The team, composed of high school players ages 15-16 from Elba, Zion Chapel and New Brockton, competed in a Memorial Day tournament last weekend over in Opp, and this week will swing into action as it opens a 30-game regular season schedule. The team brings together a group of young men that have competed against each other since they were old enough to hold a bat, and gives them the chance to combine their skills and play baseball throughout the summer. Last summer saw the team advance to the state tournament, and there are high hopes this group will keep that tradition alive.

*** In closing...the coaching roller coaster has been going non-stop for several weeks now at high schools all across the area, but word is it may slow down this week as new head coaches are named and others move to join staffs at other towns. I'll keep you informed as the changes become final.

In prep football

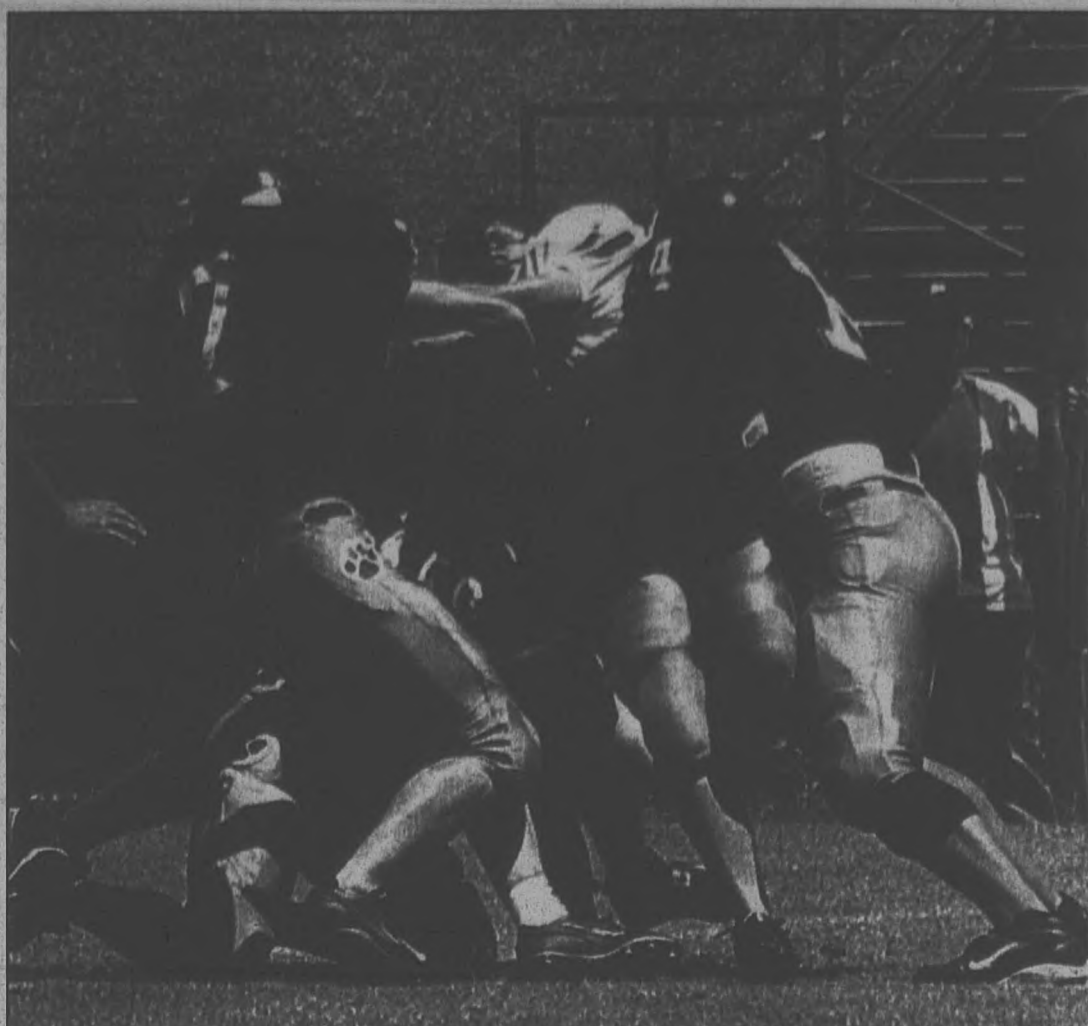
Rials feels big spring could lead to successful season for '06 Tigers

The Elba Tigers concluded spring football practice recently with a 32-12 win over Samson in a high school football jamboree. Coach Scott Rials reported the Tigers had three solid weeks of work, and the players and coaches were looking forward to a productive off-season program during the summer.

"It was a good spring in that we got the chance to look at a lot of players and were able to find two players for just about every position," said Rials. "After the three weeks I would have to say the line was the strength of the team and also that we really got after folks on defense and learned how it feels to hit. On offense we worked two inexperienced quarterbacks and it showed at times in our reads and with timing routes, but they hung tough and both took some licks. We are very young and inexperienced at the running back position. However, all the youngsters we put in the backfield ran hard and showed they will be good ones with a little actual game experience. Our receivers are also young and had some dropped balls in the game against Samson, but they too will only get better as they work on fundamentals."

The aggressiveness of the defense was a bright spot in the spring and I look for it to carry over to the season," added Rials. "We were physical up front, had good play from our linebackers and the secondary came up with five interceptions in the game against Samson. We are young at spots and it will show at times, but the defense has turned the corner and should be very much improved."

One thing that really helped us in the spring was to hold the intra-squad game one week and then come back and play an actual game against an outside



ELBA TIGER FOOTBALL... Elba Tigers battle at the line of scrimmage during the recent Black & Gold intra-squad game. Gold quarterback Trey Martin (14) found tough going on this play as Black defenders Jacob Forbes (7) and Chase Boutwell (74) block his path.

(Mike Capps photo)

opponent," added Rials. "The intra-squad game got every single player on the field in a game-type situation and let us see just what to expect, while in the actual game the players were settled into positions and got the chance to go live in a game. It was a little different in that we had two games to get ready for. However, I think the change gave the players a little more incentive and after splitting the team up we were able to bring

them all back together and play as one team."

The Tigers do have a busy summer schedule ahead that includes a trip to a passing camp at Auburn University, a camp for backs and receivers at Hoover High School, a camp for linemen at Mountain Brook High School, and possibly a couple of seven-on-seven tournaments against area opponents.

"I know that in a school our size it is pretty much the same

group of youngsters that play every sport," said Rials, "but to be successful a student-athlete must make sacrifices and be willing to work year round to stay in condition. Our summer program is for all the student-athletes at Elba High, not just for football players, and hopefully it will work to make them all closer together as a family."

and scored 3 runs, Justin Walker added 1 hit and scored 1 run, and Bruce Faulk, Jake Blackman and Chris Gillis all added 1 hit. Jeremy Weeks had 1 hit and scored 2 runs to lead New Brockton and Austin Bryant added 1 hit.

Dixie Angels Softball

Brantley Bulldogs 15 Samson 5 - The Brantley Bulldogs scored runs in every inning to defeat Samson 15-5. Kelsey Reese, Nicholas Johnson and B.J. Free both scored 3 runs to lead the Sox, while Tanner Herrington, Shawn Camley and Tyler Dawson all scored 1 run. Also batting for the Sox were Chase Moseley, Zach Odum, Tripp Hudson and Blake Dawson.

Red Sox 16 Orioles 11 - The Red Sox pulled ahead early and held on late to outscore the Orioles 16-11. Chase Moseley and Nicholas Johnson both scored 4 runs to lead the Sox, while B.J. Free scored 2 runs and Tyler Dawson, Shawn Camley, Tanner Herrington, Blake Dawson, Jeremiah Jordan and Zack Odum all scored 1 run. Also batting for the Sox was Tripp Hudson. J. Cole Spicer and Kenneth Neil Amison both scored 2 runs to lead the Orioles, while Dalton Sewell, Cayossea Stinson, Tanner Skinner, Quan Jordan, Dalton Sewell, Gavin Caldwell and Michael Jones all scored 1 run. Also batting for the Orioles were Romello Jones and Kendre Jordan.

Cubs 22 Indians 2 - The Cubs led all the way to down the Indians 22-2. Grant Akridge, Isaiah Kyle, Jordan Kidd and Harley Sanders all scored 3 runs to lead the Cubs, while Braxton Robinson, Logan Davis and Chace Nelson scored 2 runs apiece and Mason Davis, Keshon Reese, Troy Funk and C.J. Echols all scored 1 run. Donavious Williams and Taron Flowers both scored 1 run to lead the Indians, while also batting were Levi Morgan, Tanner Hudson, Korius Foster, Landon

Elba Salsa 12 Zion Chapel 11 - The Elba Salsa pulled ahead early and held on late to sneak past Zion Chapel 12-11. Shac Sams had 2 hits and scored 2 runs to lead the Salsa, while A.J. Whitfield added 1 hit and scored 2 runs, Chelsea Spann and Chloe Simmons both had 1 hit and scored 1 run, and Sarah Bryan scored 2 runs. Shelby Cochran had 2 hits and scored 2 runs to lead Zion Chapel, while Jennie Allen added 1 hit and scored 3 runs, Claire Powell added 1 hit and scored 2 runs, Kasey Taylor and Ashley Blake both added 1 hit and scored 1 run, and Faith Ketcham and Kari Hurd both added 1 hit.

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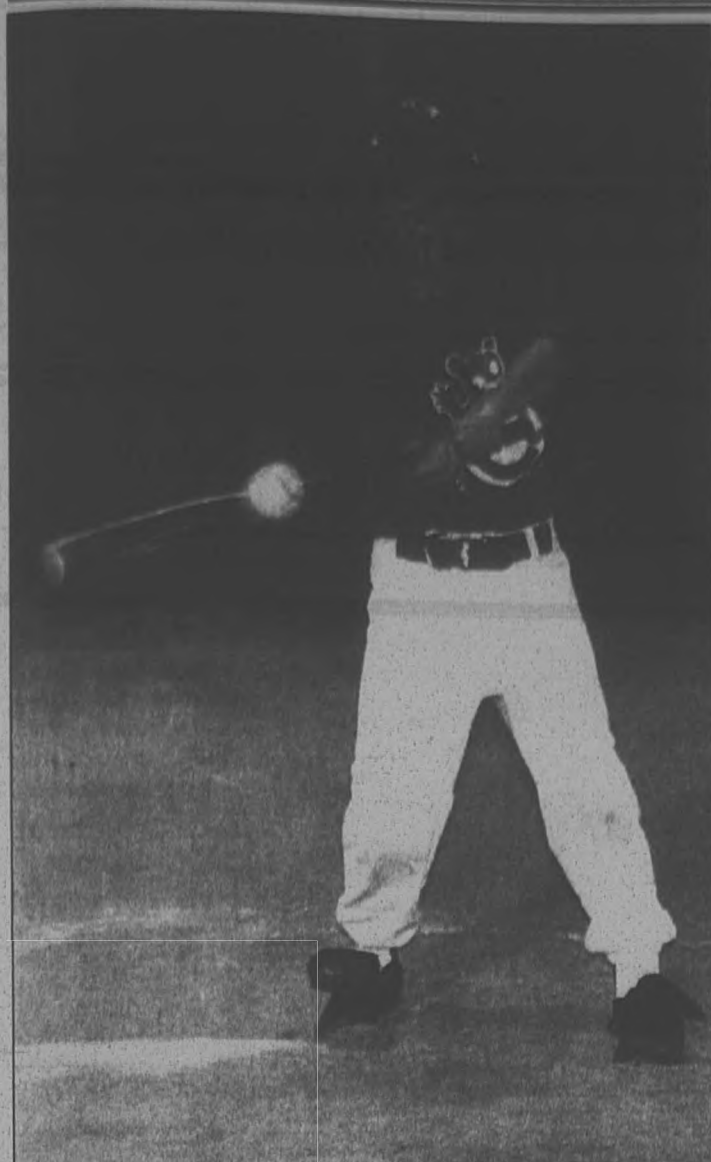
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SPORTS



BASE HIT ON THE WAY... A batter for the Cubs takes a swing and connects in recent Coach-Pitch baseball action at Hawkins-Williams Park.

(Photo by Mike Capps)



THROWING ONE TO THE PLATE... An infielder for the Brantley Braves fires a ball to home plate after fielding a grounder in recent Dixie Youth baseball action at Legion Field.

(Photo by Laura Baxley)

BASEBALL
HIGHLIGHTS

A PLAY AT THE PLATE... A base runner for the Elba Cardinals slides in at home just as a throw arrives at the Zion Chapel Red catcher in recent Dixie Minor baseball action at Legion Field.

(Photo by Mike Capps)

Let's Go...

Outdoors with Ben

By Ben Norman, Sports Columnist



Try commercial catfish baits if your live bait isn't working

Ask five catfishermen what their favorite bait is and you will probably get that many different answers. Most of them will tell you cut bait is a favorite for channel and blue cat and that a live shiner, shad, or other small fish is the bait for flatheads, as they prefer live prey.

Day in and day out, live or cut bait is the choice, but there are times when the cat just don't seem to want the natural bait, or after taking one or two fish from a hole they quite biting. During times like this commercial catfish baits may just be what they want. I remember several years ago we were fishing the Coosa River for cat and had taken several nice blues from around this one stickup. But the action quit as fast as it began. I was ready to pull up anchor and try another place when my fishing partner pulled out a box of commercial bait and two plastic dip worms with treble hooks in the tail section. We took several more fish on the commercial bait.

A wide selection of commercial baits is available at bait shops and discount stores. Those with a cheese or blood base seem to be the most popular in this area. Dough balls are good at times. Add a little cotton to the bait will stay on the hook or use a treble hook with a coil around the shank. Tube baits are good also. I like the ones with the perforations around the body that allows the bait to seep out slowly.

After the spawn, when catfish have settled in for a long hot summer is when commercial or home made concoctions will usually work best. Most catfishermen agree that the commercial baits are not as effective in winter as they are in spring and summer.

Fishermen who have a strong stomach and a spouse that will permit it can make up a dandy "sink bait dip" by cutting up any fish into cubes, placing them in a plastic jar and placing it in direct sunlight for three or four weeks. Leave the lid loose enough so the gasses will not rupture the jar.

After three or four weeks have passed, remove the lid and add four to six tablespoons of molded cheese and a couple of raw eggs. A little chicken blood and ground livers will add to the aroma. Place the jar back in the sun and wait until the concoction forms a gel. Add oatmeal if it's too thin, another egg if too thick.

This concoction will catch catfish, but considering a catfish's preference for cut or live bait, the ease of buying prepared baits at the bait shop, and the stress making this bait can put on a marriage, I opt for just buying a box of Catfish Charlie.

Free fishing day set for June 10 at Alabama public lakes

Each calendar year, the Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources designates a "Free Fishing Day" for the public to fish recreationally in public waters without a fishing license. Saturday, June 10, 2006, had been designated as this year's Free Fishing Day. Approved by the Alabama Legislature, the law allows an annual free day of fishing when residents and non-residents may fish without a fishing license.

"Free Fishing Day is offered to introduce non-anglers to the sport of fishing and to remind former anglers of the fun they've been missing," said Stan Cook, Chief of Fisheries with the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division. "It's a good time to pass on the tradition of a family fun day of fishing to Alabama's youth."

There is an exemption of the usual fishing license requirement on that day. Some lakes may still require fees and permits, and owner's permission is required to fish private ponds. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources promotes wide stewardship, management and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources through five divisions: Marine Police, Marine Resources, State Parks, State Lands, and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. To learn more about ADCNR visit www.outdooralabama.com.

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Hudson wins Roadrunner feature

Moore gets Wiregrass 100 win after post-race dq

By Mark Chisum

The Georgia Asphalt Series, in its third season of existence, made its first start in the state of Alabama Saturday night at South Alabama Speedway. For the third consecutive race, the first driver to take the checkered flag, wasn't the one to take home the winner's trophy.

34 cars were on hand for the Wiregrass 100. Mobile driver Steven Davis, familiar to many South Alabama fans, turned the fastest lap, but inversion put Scotty Ellis on the pole. Ellis led the first 30 laps before series points leader Fredrick Moore took the lead. Davis worked his way to second and rode behind the leader until he decided it was time to make his move.

On a lap 74 restart, Davis dove to the inside of Moore as the green flew. Gaining the inside position, Davis easily cleared Moore. Davis led the rest of the way to take the apparent win. Moore was second, followed by Greg Motes, Ronnie Sanders, and Michael Pope.

In the Roadrunner Feature, Jerry Hudson took the lead on the first lap and led all race to take the win. Billy Maxie came from the ninth starting spot to finish second.

Hendon Buie and Mike Cherry battled for the Mini Sportsman win with Buie taking the lead for good on lap 15. Jeremy Geddings came from the sixth starting spot to take third. Cameron Henderson finished

fourth with Allen Cherry fifth. South Alabama took the Memorial Day Weekend off. Action will continue on June 3 with the second Pro Late Model Viper Series race. The Pro Late Models will be running a 100 lap feature. Also on the night's schedule are local Modified, Street Stock, Roadrunner, and Mini Sportsman classes. For more information, contact the series at (334)565-3539, or visit the track's web site at www.southalabamaspw.com.

Results
Wiregrass 100
1. Fredrick Moore
2. Greg Motes
3. Ronnie Sanders
4. Michael Pope
5. Hunter Robbins
6. Corey Ruble
7. Tony Clark
8. Bubba Pollard, Ryan Sieg (rough driving)
9. DQ Steven Davis (1)
10. DNS Lance Hester, Scott Davis,

Corey Hendrix
Super Stock
1. Buddy Pitts
2. Will Mack
3. David Ashley
4. Ronnie Joyner
5. Ken Pettis
6. Ryan Redmon
Street Stock
1. Darrell Rudd
2. Kip Whitehead
3. Kip Whitehead
4. Duane Bates
5. Corbin Mosley
6. DNS Teddy Sasser

Mini Sportsman
1. Herndon Buie
2. Mike Cherry
3. Jeremy Geddings
4. Cameron Henderson
5. Allen Cherry

Troy University to host camps in baseball, softball and soccer during month of June 2006

Troy Baseball has announced that registration is still on-going for four (4) different camps this summer. Camp Butter & Egg will feature two baseball, one softball and one soccer camp for children between the ages of 5-12. Each camp will consist of half-day of sport training and then a half-day of fun (canoeing, fishing, swimming, etc.) Each session will be limited to (40) participants and will be held from 8:00am-5:00pm.

Baseball camps will be held June 5-9 and June 12-16, 2006 while softball and soccer camp will be held June 19-23. The first week for each particular sport will be filled first and then registration will be opened for the second week.

For more detailed information, or to register, please go to www.troybaseball.com - <http://www.troybaseball.com> - or call Ron Pierce at 334.670.9953.

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In Business For 40 Years

The National Security Group, Inc. is the Elba Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Month. The National Security family of companies have been strong supporters of the Chamber and many other community interests throughout National Security's 59 year history.

In 2001 National Security began awarding academic scholarships to children of its employees who were graduating high school seniors and planned to further their education. To date the scholarships have provided over \$30,000 in funds to assist these young people in the pursuit of their educational goals.

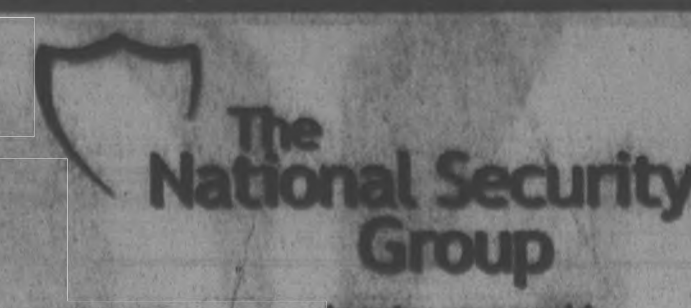
Elba City Schools have benefited tremendously through the years from National Security's generosity in financial contributions and through donations of supplies and printing. This past year The Group partnered with The Peoples Bank to provide the school's DARE officer with a new vehicle.

National Security has sponsored a very successful Relay for Life team since the inception of the Coffee County event. Relay for Life provides an opportunity for the Group's employees to give back to the community in providing funds for cancer research while participating in fun activities along the way. Over \$3,000 was raised by the National Security team this year.

The United Way has also been a longtime beneficiary of the generosity of the Group and its employees. In 2005 employees voluntarily contributed \$8,138 to the United Way campaign.

The Group's subsidiaries operate in 12 states and have assets of over \$120 million. Currently over 2,000 independent agents represent the National Security family of companies in these states.

What began as a small life insurance company providing limited face amounts of insurance has expanded into a multifaceted insurance corporation with a complete line of insurance products tailored to meet any individual or group insurance need. National Security Insurance offers a full comple-



Insuring your world.

ment of life and health products while National Security Fire and Casualty and Omega One provide comprehensive property and casualty insurance coverage for homeowners, mobile home owners, renters and even hunting lodges as well as automobile insurance.

Throughout its history National Security has been an innovator in the insurance industry, using the tools of technology to improve service to policyholders and agents. Never has this willingness to be on the cutting edge of technology been more evident than today. Future First, developed in coordination with Computer Services Corporation of Austin, Texas, is a state of the art policy administration system. The benefits of Future First have extended to every facet of National Security's life insurance operations.

National Security Fire and Casualty Company has a technological innovation underway that will completely overhaul the Company's base technology. The new technology will be implemented initially in the state of Tennessee this summer. After full implementation all of National Security's property and casualty agents will be able to submit applications online and have the ability to receive authorization to issue policies immediately provided all underwriting requirements are met.

While National Security takes full advantage of technological advances the Company still offers what larger companies can't and that's personal service. Whatever the future holds in technology, National Security will never lose sight of the fact that it is in the business of serving people. Television statement declares National Security to be

an organization dedicated to helping people in times of need by providing vital, easily understood insurance products and prompt professional service, achieving growth by holding to the values of quality, integrity, and compassion.

The Group has always been a strong supporter of the U.S. military as evidenced by the Vietnam Memorial Park located on the Group's campus. Recent additions to the Park include a Huey helicopter that served in Vietnam and an M101 A2 howitzer. Plans are in progress to secure a tank for display at the Park in the near future. In January of 2005 the first Let's They Be Forgotten memorial dedicated in the United States was dedicated at the Park. The memorial honors the memory of Elba native Sgt. Jason Jordan who was killed in action in Iraq in 2003.

National Security is in the midst of the most exciting period in its history. The work force has grown over 50 percent in the past few years; premium revenues are at record levels; and in 2003 the company posted the largest jump in sales for any publicly traded company in Alabama according to Business Alabama magazine.

National Security has attracted many new agents to market its products and through the expansion of the product line has attracted a broader base of consumers. However, the company never forgets it all started at a dining room table in Elba in 1947. The National Security Group is poised for a bright future thanks to the dedicated employees and stockholders who are committed to making National Security the premier insurance organization in the United States.



CEREMONIES UNDERWAY attendees stood in the hot sun to take part in the dedication of the J.B. Taylor Diagnostic Lab last Friday morning.

LAB
Continued from Page 1
Bishop Learning Center as a "Top Notch, Number One Facility".



Taylor family members look over old photos and news clippings



PICTURED ARE Representative Spicer, Dr. Billy Powell, Commissioner Sparks, Senator Holley and Alabama Cattleman's President Max Bozeman.

He explained that the lab was not only a great support facility for South Alabama farmers but the first line of defense in public health.

Senator Jimmy Holley and

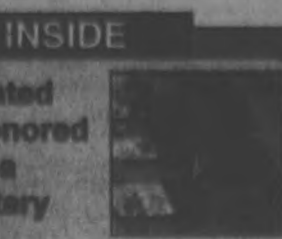
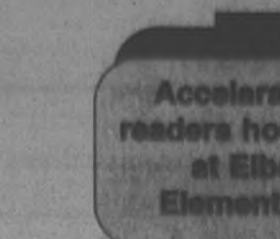
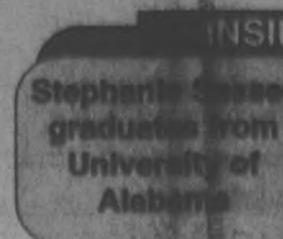
Representative Terry Spicer received praise from several speakers for their dedicated efforts in getting the new lab built. Holley was called an "Unflinching leader" by Dr. Frazier. Included in the new lab is a half million dollar state-of-the-art tissue digester. This equipment so completely destroys any germs, etc. and breaks down diseased animal tissue to a point of making it completely safe to discharge into the city's sanitary sewer system.

On hand for the dedication were several members of the family of the late J. B. Taylor family. Max Bozeman, president of the Alabama Cattleman's Association was also in attendance.

The refreshment table was hosted by the Elba Chamber of Commerce.

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Volume 109, Number 52

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, June 8, 2006

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

For Democratic and Republican Primary Elections

Coffee County voters take to the polls

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Coffee County voters joined those across the state Tuesday, June 6, in casting their vote in the Democratic and Republican Primary elections.

There were 9,767 ballots cast in the county during the day with 5,202 cast in the Democratic Primary and 4,555 cast in the Republican Primary.

Locally, the sheriff's race was a main attraction in both primaries.

The Democratic Primary found incumbent Ben Moates facing Lance H. Tindol. With the unofficial numbers tallied, voters gave the Democratic nomination for November's general election to Tindol with 52.53 percent of the votes. Only 251 votes separated the two candidates with Tindol receiving 2,609 and Moates receiving 2,358.

The Republican Primary featured three men seeking the party's nomination for November's general election. With the unofficial number calculated, a runoff will be necessary between Dave Sutton and Ricky Barnes. Sutton received 42.20 percent of the votes with 1,721 while Barnes received 38.82 percent of the votes with 1,583. The third contender, M.J. (Jack) Parker took 18.98 percent of the vote with 774.

Another highly contested race on the local level was in the Democratic Primary for State

The Primary Run-off Elections will be held Tuesday, July 18. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. that day.

County vote with 29 of 30 boxes reporting was 3619 for Holley and 1315 for Sawyer.

The Democratic nominee will face Republican Dwight Adams in November's general election. The Coffee County Board of Education, District Three race was decided in the Republican Primary. Galen L. McWaters took 55.70 percent of the unofficial vote with 298 compared to his competitor, Thomas Moore, with 237 votes. McWaters will face incumbent Scotty Hunko (D) in November's general election.

While no totals were available for the statewide races as of press time Tuesday night, the unofficial results of the Coffee County vote is listed below. Also included are results for the local state executive committee

member spots for each party. In the Democratic Primary, Coffee County voters cast their selections in the following manner:

For Governor:
Lucy Baxley.....3,295
Harry Lyon.....40
Katherine Mack.....32
Nathan Mathis.....163
James Potts.....19
Don Siegelman.....1,289
For United States Representative, 2nd Congressional District:
Charles (Chuck) Dean James.....2,526
John Morykwas Jr.....921
For Attorney General:
Larry Darby.....1,821
John Tyson Jr.....1,529
For State Senator, District No. 31:
Jimmy W. Holley.....2,945
Joe Sawyer.....2,171
For Court of Criminal Appeals Judge, Place No. 2:
Jamie Durham.....1,742
Claude E. Patton.....1,653
For Secretary of State:
Ed Packard.....1,037
Nancy L. Worley.....3,142
For State Treasurer:
Steve Segrest.....2,329
Keith Douglas Williams.....1,232
For State Auditor:
Chintley Baker.....1,133
Janie Baker Clarke.....1,704
Wayne Sowell.....777
For Public Service Commission, Place No. 2:
Debbie Murphree.....883
Susan Parker.....2,845

Please See VOTE, Page 3

New Brockton Town Council votes on council member's status

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Members of the New Brockton Town Council met Monday evening, June 5, for the regular monthly meeting and found themselves discussing the status of one councilman.

Mayor Charles Cole said policy states that if a council member misses three consecutive meetings he/she automatically forfeits his/her seat on the council unless there is an acceptable reason for the absence. Council member Johnnie Herron has missed three consecutive meetings.

Cole said Herron has been absent from the meetings because he is in California looking after an ill sibling. He said Herron has been gone much

longer than anticipated because "things are not looking good."

Cole said Herron typically does not miss council meetings; therefore, he recommended the council accept his excuse for missing the three consecutive meetings as an acceptable reason for absence.

Council member Cal Donnia Howard made a motion to accept Herron's excuse for absence. She received a second from council member Vicky Harrison, and all members voted in favor. With the approval of the motion, Herron will not have to forfeit his seat on the council.

Council members discussed the town's travel policy for personnel. Mayor Cole made a recommendation that the town pay

employees 44 cents per mile for travel. Also he recommended a per diem for meals at \$8 for every six hours away from home (\$24 per day) and \$80 for lodging. The mayor's recommendations for meals and lodging equaled \$114 per day, but he asked council members to consider rounding that up to a cap of \$115 per day.

Council member Howard made a motion to accept the mayor's recommendations. She received a second from council member Richard Driskell, and the motion unanimously passed.

Mayor Cole also informed council members during Monday evening's meeting that the town can apply for a Department of Transportation grant in applying, he said the town has several different options, but his recommendation would be to apply for funds to extend the walking trail to the high school. The deadline to apply for the grant is September.

Council member Harrison made a motion to table the issue to give council members an opportunity to discuss it more in depth at the next working group meeting. She said she would like to have more time to think about it and consider the options

other than the walking trail.

Council member Driskell supplied a second for the motion, but it failed by a 2-3 vote. Only Harrison and Driskell voted in favor of tabling. Mayor Cole and council members Howard and Jeff White voted against tabling.

White then made a motion to apply for the grant to allow the town to extend the walking trail to the high school. He received a second from Howard, and council members voted in approval.

Harrison said she still would like to look at the other things the town could do with the grant money if approved.

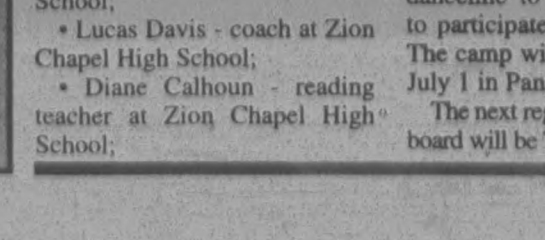
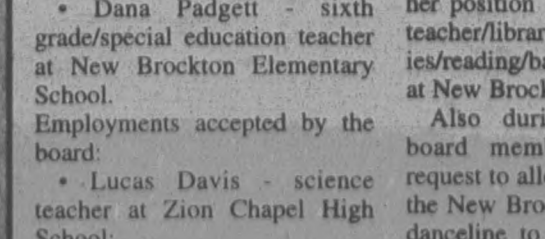
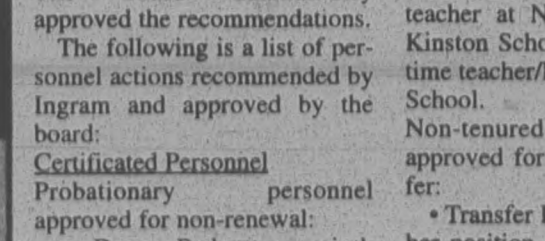
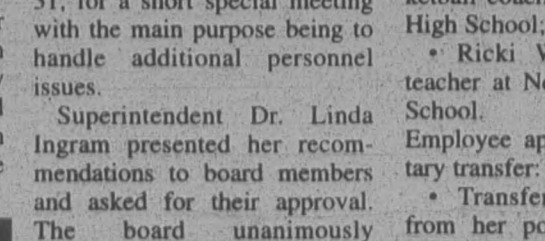
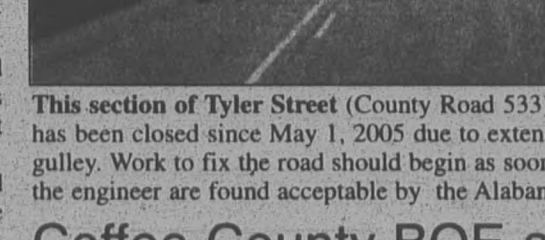
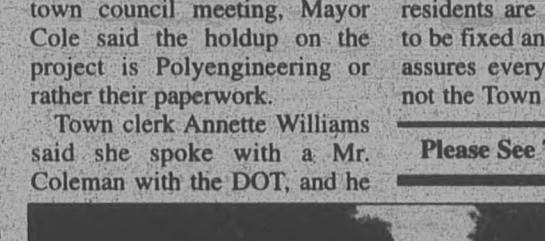
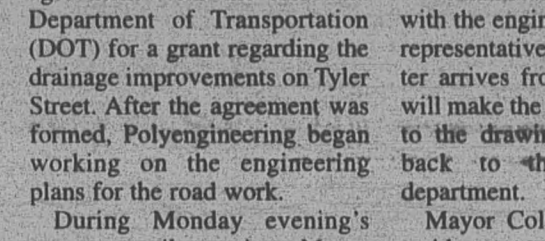
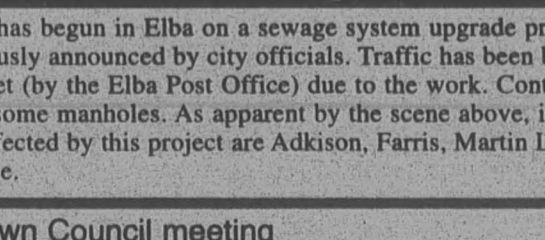
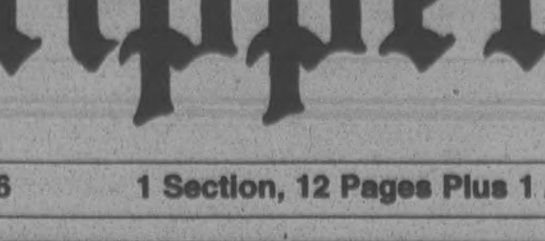
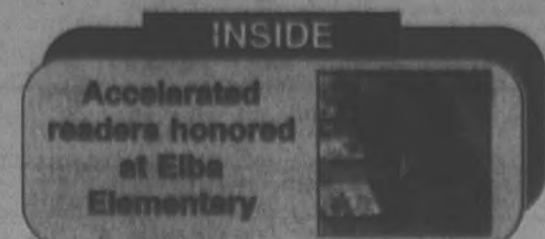
"New Brockton has waited too long," White said. "It's time to move on." Before the adjourning, Mayor Cole thanked those responsible for the recent sidewalk improvements in town. He said the sidewalk and beautification speaks for itself, and the work has not gone unnoticed with several positive comments being made. The next regular meeting for the New Brockton Town Council will be Monday, July 10, at 7 p.m. Town offices will be closed Tuesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

Area Happenings

THE COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION will meet Monday, June 12, at 9 a.m. for the regular bimonthly meeting at the county complex in New Brockton.

THE ELBA CITY COUNCIL will meet Monday, June 12, at 5:30 p.m. for the regular bimonthly meeting at Elba City Hall.

THE ELBA PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE will sponsor "Picnic for the Park" Thursday, June 29, at the Elba High School cafeteria beginning at 6:30 p.m. This event will offer an opportunity for all ages an opportunity to learn specific details regarding the project while also helping to raise additional needed funds for the playground and build enthusiasm about the upcoming build week (Sept. 19-23) where many volunteers from the community will be needed to build the playground. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Laurie Chapman at (334) 897-1152 or email: lauriechampan@charter.net.



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